

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a password to an application, the method comprising:  
  
receiving, from a user, a passkey event uniquely associated with one of a  
5 plurality of applications requiring a password;  
  
receiving, from a user, a same master password for access to each of the  
plurality of applications;  
  
10 applying a hashing algorithm associated with the separate input event to the  
master password to generate an application specific password; and  
  
submitting the application specific password to the application for access by  
the user.  
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein applying a hashing algorithm associated with  
the passkey event to the same master password to generate an application  
specific password comprises:  
  
5 retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event; and  
  
applying the hash value to at least one character of the same master password  
to generate at least one hashed character.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event comprises retrieving hash value from a user's configuration file.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event comprises retrieving a hash value from a configuration register.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the master password to generate an application specific password comprises:  
  
5 retrieving a character rule algorithm; and  
  
applying the character rule algorithm to the hashed character to generate a character rule compliant hashed character.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the master password to generate an application specific password comprises:  
  
5 retrieving a master rule algorithm; and  
  
applying the master rule algorithm.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving, from a user, a passkey event uniquely associated with any given one of the plurality of applications comprises receiving, from a user, an event created by a user's engaging a keyboard key.

8. A system for providing a password to an application, the system comprising:

means for receiving, from a user, a passkey event uniquely associated with one of a plurality of applications requiring a password;

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means for receiving, from a user, a same master password for access to each of the plurality of applications;

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means for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the separate input event to the master password to generate an application specific password; and

means for submitting the application specific password to the application for access by the user.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein means for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the same master password to generate an application specific password comprises:

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means for retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event; and

means for applying the hash value to at least one character of the same master password to generate at least one hashed character.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein means for retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event comprises means for retrieving hash value from a user's configuration file.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein means for retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event means for comprises retrieving a hash value from a configuration register.
12. The system of claim 9 wherein means for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the master password to generate an application specific password comprises:
- 5 means for retrieving a character rule algorithm; and
- means for applying the character rule algorithm to the hashed character to generate a character rule compliant hashed character.
13. The system of claim 10 wherein means for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the master password to generate an application specific password comprises:
- 5 means for retrieving a master rule algorithm; and
- means for applying the master rule algorithm.
14. The system of claim 8, wherein means for receiving, from a user, a passkey event uniquely associated with any given one of the plurality of applications comprises means for receiving, from a user, an event created by a user's engaging a keyboard key.

15. A computer program product for providing a password to an application, the computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving, from a user, a passkey event uniquely associated with one of a plurality of applications requiring a password;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving, from a user, a same master password for access to each of the plurality of applications;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the separate input event to the master password to generate an application specific password; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for submitting the application specific password to the application for access by the user.

16. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the same master password to generate an application specific password comprises:

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event; and

- 10 means, recorded on the recording medium, for applying the hash value to at least one character of the same master password to generate at least one hashed character.
17. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving hash value from a user's configuration file.
- 5 18. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving a hash value associated with the passkey event means, recorded on the recording medium, for comprises retrieving a hash value from a configuration register.
- 5 19. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the master password to generate an application specific password comprises:
- 5 means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving a character rule algorithm; and
- 10 means, recorded on the recording medium, for applying the character rule algorithm to the hashed character to generate a character rule compliant hashed character.
20. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein means, recorded on the

recording medium, for applying a hashing algorithm associated with the passkey event to the master password to generate an application specific password comprises:

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving a master rule algorithm; and

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for applying the master rule algorithm.